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Gary, Elbert Henry

Address by Elbert H. Gary,
president...May 25, 1923

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ADDRESS BY

ELBERT H. GARY

PRESIDENT, AMERICAN IRON AND STEEL INSTITUTE

AT ANNUAL MEETING

NEW YORK

MAY 25, 1923

ADDRESS BY

ELBERT H. GARY

PRESIDENT, AMERICAN IRON AND STEEL INSTITUTE

AT ANNUAL MEETING

HOTEL COMMODORE, NEW YORK CITY

MAY 25, 1923

AS some of you know, your President has recently made a Mediterranean trip. The voyage was made on the well-known Mauretania, under the command of the famous Captain Rostron, a very able and most agreeable navigator. It was he who, with the good ship Carpathia, received the message of distress from the Titanic eleven years ago, rushed to the scene of disaster and picked up a large number of passengers, mostly women and children, who otherwise would have perished. He was highly decorated for his achievement by his King, but better than that secured the permanent and grateful esteem of multitudes of people.

The ship left New York February seventh and returned April thirteenth. We went to the Madeira Islands, to Cadiz, Spain, thence by automobile to Seville and to Gibraltar, where we joined the ship; then to Al-

giers, Nice, Naples, Constantinople, Athens and Haifa, Palestine. From there we went by railroad to Jerusalem and then across the desert, but in sight of sea most of the time, to Cairo, crossing the Suez Canal at El Kantara el Khazneh.

Later we traveled by railroad to Alexandria, where the ship had gone from Haifa and had been waiting for about twelve days. From there we sailed back to Naples, went to and returned from Rome by railroad, then sailed to Ajaccio, Corsica; Lisbon, Portugal, and to Southampton for a visit of five days in London, and then home.

The weather was good on the average and the sea smooth, though frequently electric heat in the cabin was agreeable and sometimes the waves were sufficiently high and active to be noticeable to those who were not much accustomed to ocean travel. The ship's guests included a very agreeable company who became well acquainted, and apparently were always pleased, when returning from land visits to the Mauretania, to see the sign "Welcome Home."

This delightful trip resulted from a conversation at dinner with Mr. Adolph S. Ochs, President of the New York Times, who had made a similar voyage a year before and whose recommendations, though emphatic, were not exaggerated. Some of you have likewise enjoyed a visit to the Near East and it is to be hoped many others will have this pleasure.

Just how much or how little to say on this occasion about the different countries visited and the characteristics of the inhabitants, their customs and dress, and particularly the seeming trend of thought concerning current events is, at least, a problem.

Obviously one could not in a short time obtain sufficient information to form a reliable opinion concerning the great economic questions now attracting general attention, as particularly applied to the respective localities mentioned; though it is evident the peoples of every one of these nations, great and small, are more or less looking to all others with inquiring and anxious minds.

But every traveler, who is diligent and alert, is bound to form some impressions even concerning questions of great magnitude.

Every person of reasoning qualifications residing in the respective countries visited, from the highest to the lowest, is thoroughly tired of war. Its horrors, costs and destructive results have been so practically demonstrated during the last decade that the simplest mind abhors military conflict. The reasons, motives and emotions are not the same in all minds, but the conclusions are altogether or nearly unanimous. Every country would like to have peace, continuous and permanent. All would like to close the eyes in sleep without a feeling of dread and fear for the future and of a rude and dangerous awakening. It is regrettable that the differences of opinion as to who is right or wrong become so fixed and stubborn in the minds of leaders, many of whom do not expect to become personal sufferers, as to excite and increase feelings of bitterness and hate or of greed and ambition until reason is overcome and man is degraded to the level of brutality. Even the one who fights in self-defense, which is generally accepted as justifiable, frequently exceeds the limits of propriety.

The masses of the people believe that they have been exploited by a few in power, and that they and their

helpless children unnecessarily have been made to hunger and starve and suffer and die. In private conversations this is said by modest and unaggressive persons in large numbers. They hope for relief. The Christian, the Mohammedan, the Jew, the Bedouin, publicly or privately, is praying for relief. They believe as never before that the time is coming when "wars and rumors of wars" shall cease. Whenever, if at all, this will be universal we, with our limit of understanding, cannot vision.

There is only one way of fairly and finally settling any controversy or question, and that is, in consonance with the principles of the Christian religion. Whenever a nation or an individual reaches the point where, as the result of war or of shipwreck, or otherwise, immediate destruction is inevitable, assent to the idea expressed is natural and well-nigh universal. There are multitudes of people who believe that the fundamental and controlling doctrine of the nation's laws should be in accordance with the principles of the Holy Bible and that every law-maker and administrator should be compelled to endorse and practice its undeniable precepts.

One who reads of or personally witnesses evidences of the rise and fall of great nations and communities and cities, whose ruins are so great that they attract the attention and admiration of the entire world, is led to believe that an overruling God determined their destinies. Corinth, for a long time a dominating city, known as the luxurious and wicked city, today has only a small community with a few remaining magnificent ruins partly uncovered; and similar cases are numerous. Such nations as the United States, even, or Great Britain, France, Italy, Japan, China, Germany, Austria, Russia, will do

well to constantly bear in mind the history of the past and the possibilities of the future. "Let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall."

We should, if possible, avoid ill-natured controversies, international, national, state, municipal, public, private, political, sectarian, economic or otherwise. They are numerous at present; indeed they seem to be fashionable. Where or in whom is the blame? "He that is without sin, let him first cast a stone." Let us diligently search our own hearts.

Another thing particularly noticeable at present in all southern countries is the disposition of the working classes concerning industry, frugality, economy and saving. They remind one of the ant whose hill has been destroyed, or the bee whose hive has been emptied or the bird whose nest has been tattered. If you say humanity is not to be compared with animal life the answer is that the homes and habitations and legitimate activities of humans have been attacked and destroyed and interrupted; and that the sensible individual who has suffered will do what he reasonably can to decently cooperate in securing restoration and rehabilitation. In going by motor from Athens to Corinth, seventy-five miles, leaving the former at daybreak, the farmers were seen from the start going to their work, carrying implements of agriculture and dinner pails. The same could be seen in Italy, from the railroad train, as soon as daylight appeared, and in Egypt. The people are all at work, and in many countries their food consists of bread, or its equivalent, and vegetables. They cannot afford more. They seem to be in good spirits and good health. Fortunate it is that people in many countries are better provided,

though in the United States it might be better for the health of both the employers and the employes generally if they ate less food of certain kinds. A plentiful supply of "milk and wild honey" seemed to be luxurious in Palestine in olden times, but it would not be satisfactory here and now. Most of us in this room had little of luxury of any kind in our younger days, and are all the better and stronger for it. But we are considering the question of economy and not the subject of diet.

Certain it is that the great majority of the people in Italy, Turkey, Greece, Palestine and Egypt, are acting as though they intend to do everything practicable to bring about a return to reasonable prosperity and comfort, and this disposition will result in great benefit to them and their countries, and to the world. In view of our fortunate conditions, are we doing our part?

If you should decide to visit Palestine, which it is hoped you will, before and after doing so thoroughly read again your Bible, this classic of classics, all in all the most interesting and fascinating of books. There are contained many things which, taken literally, we may not understand. It is not necessary and it would perhaps be a waste of time to try. Our minds are too small, our understanding too limited. Possibly in some immaterial respects the published interpretations are literally incomplete, misleading or inapplicable to our time. But in the main the language, as used, is accurate and well authenticated by science and by actual observations. The moral and religious principles of the Bible, both the Old and New Testaments, have never been and can never be successfully combated. Since the preservation of history commenced there has never been anything approach-

ing the Holy Bible as a literary production or a code for proper and desirable human conduct, or as the foundation for future hopes. If any here should believe this is an exaggeration, which is not probable, read again this book and you will be surprised. Visit Palestine, in the light of and under the inspiration of the Bible. Things that could not easily be destroyed are there. The landmarks of Palestine are as described in the Bible. The River Jordan, the Dead Sea, the Sea of Galilee, Mount of Olives, the Valley of Jehoshaphat and many other places familiar to Bible readers; all these are indisputable evidence of the accuracy of that book in historical recitation. Many of the tombs, which in many cases referred to were deep down in the rocks, cannot be discovered or located, but others can be. Abraham, perhaps thousands of years B. C., was, according to the Bible, directed to and did secure a burial lot in the caves of Machpelah at Hebron and he and Isaac and Jacob and their wives were buried there. Consult Genesis again. Hebron is still a substantial place, easily located by the written description. The place of these tombs can be seen, though with some difficulty. Many of the mentioned wells or springs are still in use. The general topography of the country, as described in the Bible, you can verify. Also read Josephus, a historian of the first century. In short, the more we read and study the more we must be convinced of the absolute reliability of the "Book of Books." Much more than all this, the better men we will be, the more grateful we will be and the more anxious to have our country and the affairs of all its inhabitants carried on in conformance to its precepts.

The late wars seem to have influenced the rank and

file of the men of the Near East to pay more attention to the long future. This appears from conversations with the dragomen or the merchants, the financiers or the working people of Egypt and other countries. It may be true that some, perhaps many, of the clergy or priests or teachers have taught or are teaching doctrines at variance with some parts of the Bible, particularly the New Testament. Others, of course, are better qualified to speak on this question; but that the influence of the principles of the Bible is now particularly extending all over the world and that it is essential to firmly re-establish peace, prosperity and happiness, cannot be reasonably denied.

The religious sentiment of the Near East, which seems apparent to a casual visitor, is striking and a hopeful sign for posterity. Indeed, it is in evidence throughout all continents. A token is found in the recent manly statement of President Harding concerning the Holy Bible. His utterances should furnish a theme for many sermons.

TURKEY

Another subject will impress a traveler to the Near East, where Turks are numerous. A majority of the people of some lands, and perhaps many, have entertained a strong prejudice against the Turks and the Turkish nation. In this connection your attention is called to an editorial in the Sunday Pictorial of London by Lord Rothermere, founder of this periodical and many others. It was published April 22nd ultimo and is entitled: "Stop squabbling in the Near East and keep our markets open." Although the article does not attempt to fully describe the character of the Turk, it is apparent that he is re-

spected by the writer. The arguments of Lord Rothermere are well worth careful reading and consideration.

In recent conversations with many impartial disinterested persons both in official and private life the Turk was favorably compared with many other nations. It is believed you will be astonished with a careful study of the Turk in private life during times of peace.

Turkey is a great country. Its citizens are very intelligent and well meaning. They must be, ought to be, reckoned with. Treated right they will be a power for good in maintaining a proper world equilibrium. The time has gone by for thinking their country should be destroyed or their properties exploited for the selfish benefit of other nations or individuals. That there should be reforms there, as in many other countries, should go without saying, but that is beside the question now under discussion.

You would be interested in Constantinople, with its wonderful mosques, its customs, the varieties of nationals and dress, the religious forms and practice, the bay, the Golden Horn, the Dardanelles, the Bosphorus, the natural topography, the cemeteries, the shops, museums, art objects and antiquities.

GREECE

Greece you probably know from reading better than most other foreign countries. It is beautifully located, with natural coloring that is magnificent. Its mountains, seas and surrounding islands are picturesque and most attractive. Its greatest treasures have been destroyed, except for the splendor of its ruins, which are in a good state of preservation. The Acropolis at Athens, which

means the high place of the city, was at one time covered with beautiful structures, perhaps equal to or greater than those in the Forum of Rome. All were practically destroyed by alien enemies. As you are aware, for a comparatively short period, perhaps a century or more, four or five hundred years before Christ, not to be exact, Greece was the seat of literature, of learning, of art, the home of some of the greatest men ever mentioned in history. Time will not be taken to quote from published accounts. Many of you are students of history, though few of us ever had the opportunity to become familiar with the Greek language. Now Greece is poor by comparison, though the new Athens is a large and handsome city and there are many fine and costly buildings. What has wrought the great changes during the last twenty-five hundred years? War has had much—everything to do with it. Why did an all-powerful and merciful Providence permit such awful destruction and decadence? Read history and ascertain; read Paul's Epistles. Perhaps you will also discover some reasons why the Roman Empire fell; why Babylon fell; why Jerusalem was many times destroyed; why many great cities and nations fell from power and prosperity; but more particularly, why other great nations may hereafter perish.

Is a sermon being preached? No, it is simple, plain, business sense. Gentlemen, it is in accordance with our instincts and judgment, as frequently proclaimed, to say that it pays a nation or an individual to follow a Christian course.

Greece would seem to be on the road to recovered progress and prosperity. It may be and probably will

be slow, but the Sun of Hope is shining in that country of brilliant sunshine. There is a man in Athens perhaps some present have never read of. He is General Plastiras. He is said to be a dominant factor in the affairs of Greece at the present time. He is a young man, perhaps between thirty-five and forty, handsome, tall, straight, broad shouldered but otherwise slender in form, with black eyes that shine like coals of fire. He has a determined but friendly countenance. It is said by others in Athens, unbiased, disinterested persons, that at the time when, near Smyrna, the Greek army was defeated and in retreat, having lost forty thousand troops, killed or incapacitated, and sixty thousand besides taken as prisoners, General Plastiras with his soldiers went to the relief of the Greek army, placed his troops in the rear of the defeated army, himself at the front, fought the Turks and saved the Greeks. Whether or not this is in any respect overdrawn it did not come from General Plastiras. He was acclaimed in Athens as a hero. He was in the lead of the revolution that resulted in the flight of King Constantine and the substitution of his oldest son as King. After this you will remember members of the old cabinet and a General were court-martialed, convicted and executed. Who was responsible for this is not stated. For a time large numbers were aghast. However, in Athens everything is now quiet and peaceful. It is claimed by some at least that the cabinet, or some of the members, by or without the connivance of the General last referred to, failed to furnish to the impoverished and helpless Greek army sufficient bread or other food, to say nothing of arms and ammunition,

although the means had been provided. Others claim help had been expected from Great Britain.

It is said no legislation or other governmental action can be taken without the approval of General Plastiras. He openly insists that the people generally are now industrious, that they are frugal, well-behaved and loyal; that the Government is honestly administered and that Greece is on the road to recovery.

The present King is an intelligent, thoughtful, educated soldier, and will be progressive and statesman-like. He is exceedingly anxious to see his country prosper. It is apparent from the speech of large numbers that the longer he reigns the more beloved and influential he will be. He speaks of the United States with great respect and with feelings of gratitude for its generous sympathy and relief contributions during times of stress and suffering. He did not ask nor desire to be King, but he will exert every effort in behalf of his people.

Let us hope this is all justified and that Greece again, and also Turkey, may be stabilized as honest, well-intentioned, progressive and prosperous nations.

EGYPT

Egypt is a remarkable country and entitled to a better place amongst nations than she has occupied for hundreds of years last past. In climate, grandeur of scenic localities, richness of soil where there is irrigation, antiquities, variety of people, she is unique and in many particulars superb. It may be observed, however, that the River Nile is the life of Egypt. Without this river it would soon fall into decay. She has, of course, a strong and needed friend in Great Britain, whose pecuniary in-

terests on account of the Suez Canal, and the producing capacity of countries tributary, compel her to exercise an oversight which is helpful to Great Britain in many ways, and likewise to Egypt.

Egypt has recently become a kingdom. The former Sultan is now King. He is a vigorous man, finely educated, public-minded, popular, well-intentioned and seems to be giving a good administration. He is a close student of the opportunities and necessities of his country and very desirous of cultivating a feeling of friendship with other nations, including the United States. He would like to have the business relations with us increased to the highest point of practicability and to this end will lend his influence.

The principal industry in Egypt is cotton. The fibre grows long and strong. It is intrinsically more valuable than the cotton grown in other countries. The growers are not receiving as much for their crops as they ought. The bankers' methods are said to be exacting and harsh. The farmers, as a rule, are obliged to borrow money on their crops and to promptly sell at a price usually too low. They are hoping for a remedy; and the enterprise of foreign capital will perhaps bring this about.

No one knows how many undiscovered tombs are contained in Egypt. They were built far beneath the surface of sand or earth and with stone walls divided into many compartments. They were like homes, built and furnished for the occupant and his friends who would, in the spirit, be expected to come there as visitors. Similar homes, under the ground, established thousands, or perhaps millions of years ago, may some time be discovered in new places. Of a recent date a burial place like this

was accidentally discovered in Alexandria. Here were established many individual tombs or homes deep down below the surface like those along the Nile, except the division walls and the sarcophagi were of solid rock, the whole village of tombs and other buildings and passage ways being cut into the mountain or hill of stone. No doubt the undiscovered contents beneath the earth in various geographical localities, if fully exposed, would startle the world.

ITALY

Italy seems to be making substantial economic recovery. The recent military movement, which has been designated as a bloodless revolution, startled the whole world. Mussolini, at the head of scores of thousands of soldiers, hastily recruited or assembled, marched into Rome and simply took possession of the Governmental Administration. His platform is best expressed in his own language: "I came to save, not to destroy Italy." He boldly and frankly made known his intentions and purposes to the King, to the Parliament and to all governmental officials, and demanded control of the administration. He insisted that governmental management had not been what it ought to be and that henceforth there should be an honest, stable, economical, constructive and progressive government, controlled and carried on for the benefit of all the people in due proportion; not as advocated by the socialists, but exactly the opposite. He proposes to fully protect person and property, giving to all equal opportunity for success, and guarantees the individual possession and use of all that is legitimately acquired. His

REPORT OF The American Iron and Steel Institute Committee on Proposed Total Elimination of the Twelve-Hour Day

PRESENTED AT THE
ANNUAL MEETING, MAY 25th, 1923

ALTHOUGH the committee appointed by the President of the American Iron and Steel Institute, to consider the twelve-hour day work in the steel industry and report conclusions and recommendations, has made a very careful and painstaking study of the facts and figures developed, it is not yet ready to make what it would designate a final report.

Apparently the underlying reason for the agitation which resulted in the appointment of this committee was based on a sentiment (not created or endorsed by the workmen themselves) that the twelve-hour day was an unreasonable hardship upon the employees who were connected with it; that it was physically injurious to a large percentage of the employees; and that it interfered with family associations essential to the welfare of the children; that for these reasons it was, in a sense, opposed to the public interest.

Whatever will be said against the twelve-hour day in the steel industry, investigation has convinced this committee that the same has not of itself been an injury to the employees, physically, mentally or morally. Whether or not, in the large majority of cases, twelve-hour men devote less time to their families than the employees working less hours is perhaps questionable.

A part of the manufacturing of iron and steel is necessarily continuous. Therefore, practically, there must be two shifts of twelve hours or three shifts of eight hours. The workmen, as a rule, prefer the longer hours because it permits larger compensation per day.

It is asserted with confidence that there is less physical work, as a total per day, and less fatigue from the work of the twelve-hour day in the steel industry, than pertains to the large majority of the eight-hour men. This is because in the former case there are more rest periods during the twelve hours on duty.

In the opinion of the members of the committee there is no concern of importance connected with the iron and steel in-

dustry in the United States that would urge or willingly permit employees to exert themselves to a point where they would be injured physically, mentally or morally. Desire and effort to improve the conditions and promote the welfare of employees in the iron and steel industry of this country has been a cardinal principle with the employers for many years last past. We think this will not be contradicted by fair-minded, unprejudiced, well-informed persons.

But in the consideration of this subject there are many questions of high importance, not involving moral or social features. They are economic; they affect the pecuniary interests of the great public, which includes, but is not confined to, employers and employees. At the present time the United States and all other nations are especially interested in large production, whether it is on the farms, in the mines, or in the manufactories. The largest reasonable production is necessary to bring about a restoration to stability, progress and prosperity; and large production at low cost, for sale at fair prices, the entire world is more dependent upon at the present time than ever before.

Our investigation shows that if the twelve-hour day in the iron and steel industry should be abandoned at present, it would increase the cost of production on the average about 15%; and there would be needed at least 60,000 additional employees. If labor were sufficiently plentiful to permit the change it would be necessary to add to the selling prices certainly as much as the increase in cost.

But it would be impossible, under the existing conditions, to obtain a sufficient number of men to operate the plants on a three-shift basis up to a capacity which would supply the present necessities of the purchasing public. There are not now, under a two-shift practice at the furnaces, enough men to meet the demand for iron and steel.

To a material extent, the question of amount paid to employees, which is a very large proportion of the cost of producing, and which must necessarily determine the selling prices, is one between the employees and the purchasing public. Investors stand between these two, and it is their responsibility and their effort to decide fairly by both interests.

The responsibility for the numbers of employees is partly with the American Congress because affected by immigration. There should not be permitted too much immigration, and certainly there should be none of dangerous or injurious quality; but there ought to be enough to keep our production of food-stuffs, of metals and of manufactures up to the necessities of the consuming public; and sufficient to meet the demands of the national welfare, which embraces the export trade.

Therefore, under the present conditions, in view of the best interests of both employees and employers, and of the general public, the members of the committee cannot at this time report in favor of the total abolition of the twelve-hour day.

There was a consistent, persistent and successful effort during the time labor was more plentiful to reduce the numbers of men employed twelve hours per day. Although the percentages fluctuated, depending upon circumstances, the percentage was gradually reduced, as stated publicly. If labor should become sufficient to permit it, the members of this committee would favor entirely abolishing the twelve-hour day, provided the purchasing public would be satisfied with selling prices that justified it, and provided further that the employees would consent and that industry generally, including the farmers, would approve.

(Signed) E. H. GARY, *Chairman*,

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|----------------|---------------|
| L. E. BLOCK | J. A. FARRELL |
| J. A. BURDEN | E. G. GRACE |
| J. A. CAMPBELL | W. L. KING |
| A. C. DINKEY | J. A. TOPPING |

*This report was unanimously adopted at the Annual Meeting,
May 25, 1923*

Constitution for the Nation, as it is understood, so far as the protection of person and property is concerned, equals our own and under him is likely to be better administered in many respects.

The King of Italy was first approached by Mussolini. To know exactly what took place would of course be interesting. Certain it is the King rose to the heights of a great opportunity. As of the highest importance, he considered the interests and welfare of Italy; everything else, in his mind and action, was subordinated. Undoubtedly the minds of these two men met on one subject, viz: What was the best course to pursue in order to protect and advance the interests of their country? Patriotism, love of country, was the controlling sentiment in the mind of His Majesty the King, and in the mind of Mussolini. All the rest you know. The facts were published. The administration was immediately changed and governmental affairs were placed under the lead and control of Mussolini as Premier.

What has he done and what is he doing? The first thing insisted upon was that every one up to the point of capability should be regularly at work, that there should be no arbitrary or unnecessary interruptions through strikes or otherwise. Next that there should be strict economy, both in private and public affairs. Then that honesty and capability should be rewarded, dishonesty penalized and incompetent officials eliminated. What are, what necessarily must be, the results of an administration under the master mind of such a man as Mussolini? As he expresses the situation: "Every one is at work, economizing and saving. The National Budget already is nearly down to the level of government resources. Con-

ditions will be further improved." His present opinion is in favor of the private ownership, management and financing of public utilities, with the protection and sympathy of the Government and such governmental regulation as the interests of the public may absolutely require. He stands for stability, progress and prosperity.

Mussolini is a man with a good looking, pleasant, confident and determined countenance. He will do much for Italy if he retains his health, strength and equilibrium.

Italy, as a nation, you know. With her topography, her surroundings, her seas and skies, her history, her literature, her monuments, her art, her preserved ruins, she is unsurpassed. Rome with her physical and mental strength ruled the world for centuries.

CORSICA

Corsica is a beautiful island, and Ajaccio a fine, though not large, city. Its greatest monument is the old, comfortable brick house which sheltered Napoleon Bonaparte and his parents when he was born. It has recently been taken over by the National Government of France, to whom the island belongs. The people, contented, prosperous from their standpoint, loyal, friendly to visitors, make a sojourn there, temporary or prolonged, enjoyable and satisfactory. Napoleon, in his prime one of the greatest of soldiers and statesmen, lived there in his early days. Unreasonable ambition, coupled with disloyalty of his friends, destroyed him. How much he could have done for the world if he had also possessed the unselfish characteristics of George Washington.

GIBRALTAR

The Rock of Gibraltar is one of the most noted of monuments. It is as well known as the Sphinx of Egypt. With its military defenses it is impregnable. Its solidity and strength represent the character of Great Britain. The Mauretania on her return trip passed the rock at midnight. There was a full moon, the skies were clear, and the sight was grand and impressive, one never to be forgotten. The famous military General Smith-Dorrien is Governor General, and as such has made a fine record. It is to be regretted that his term has nearly expired.

MADEIRA

Madeira, a naturally handsome island, with dress and habits most attractive, climate very agreeable, is prosperous and progressive, though the governmental taxes are much too high. In this matter Portugal is making a serious mistake; not unlike some other Governments that might be mentioned.

LISBON

Lisbon is an unusually attractive city, beautifully situated. It should be visited by all travelers. There are many sights in natural scenery and monumental buildings with contents that are well worth a visit. The country is moderately prosperous and progressive. The nation needs and must have peace, international and domestic. Wars and riots have heretofore been very detrimental and discouraging. The climate is excellent.

JERUSALEM

Jerusalem is the city best known, by name at least, of any city in the universe, because Jesus Christ was crucified there. It is a large place, containing within the walls and outside probably 100,000 people. In many respects

it is like the descriptions of the old Jerusalem. The "money changers" are there, though outside the present temple. The Jews on Fridays, possibly at other times, are at the "wailing wall." They constitute probably about one-tenth of the whole population. The large majority are Arabs, although a great variety of races, with as many different costumes, are there. A traveler will see women in Palestine and in all the Mohammedan countries with covered faces. The city within the walls is up and down hills, with narrow streets and cobblestone pavements. The mosques and other religious buildings are magnificent. The walls are practically restored and will be maintained. There are pointed out a great many sacred places, such as Gethsemane, Golgotha, Lazarus' burial place, Pilate's court rooms, residences of Mary and Martha, etc., etc., many of which alleged locations are not fully authenticated. The Zion movement, so called, up to date has not been entirely successful. Representatives of England, under the stress of war conditions, made promises that cannot be fulfilled. Jews are outnumbered and besides, if they were in the majority, they would not, as a rule, be happy there. The motive for a Jew in living at Jerusalem would be strictly religious. There is an American colony in Jerusalem founded many years ago by Spofford, a Chicago lawyer, whose whole family, with one exception, had previously perished in a shipwreck. This colony in charge of a descendant is prosperous and generally respected.

To see Jerusalem with its surroundings, including Bethlehem, Nazareth, Hebron, Jericho and large numbers of other places, should be the desire and, if possible, the intention of every living person. The hotel accommodations are fairly good, though simple. To describe Jeru-

salem in much detail would take time which cannot be spared, particularly in view of the fact that so much about it has been written and published. To see it, and before and after, to read what has been written in the Bible, especially in the New Testament, is of highest interest and importance.

ALGIERS

Algiers is unique, noted for its beautiful situation and climate. It is a "crazy quilt" of costumes and customs and people with a babel of tongues. You should go there. A trip by automobile from there across the Great Desert would be wonderful.

MONARCHIES

The American traveler, who visits foreign countries, is impressed with the striking changes that have occurred concerning the rule of monarchs. Some of these were predicted at or before the commencement of the late World War. Formerly kings were all independently potential. Now they have little to say when disagreements appear, however much beloved the monarch may be. Perhaps this is best, though there is always danger of carrying the distribution of governmental or state control too far for the welfare of the entire populations. If every one was a true patriot of highest moral principles, there would be no danger in the political horizon.

DIPLOMATIC SERVICE

Our Diplomatic and Consular service in the departments visited is good and compares favorably with those of other countries. The officers are able, diligent, and carefully attend to the business matters in their charge. They make special effort to accommodate and assist American travelers; and they are highly spoken of by

Diplomats as well as the Consuls of other countries and by local officials. It is a shame that our representatives are not paid salaries and provided with funds that would place them on a parity with others. Nearly all nations furnish homes and good salaries and funds for reasonable travel and entertainment.

THE RUHR VALLEY

It may not be out of place to refer to the present situation in the Ruhr Valley, although obviously it would be inexcusable for a private citizen of the United States to publicly express an opinion concerning the merits of the existing controversy.

That it is unfortunate, deplorable, and creates a bad influence extending far beyond the three nations particularly involved, will be generally conceded. The daily cost to the French and Belgians must be enormous; that there is considerable suffering and some deaths in their ranks is probable. On the other side there are many deaths and the daily cost and the personal suffering are very great; and in addition their damage to property and business is appalling. Neither side can afford the losses which will result from the continuance of the conflict, and the adverse effect upon the whole world, as a final result, will be greater than in advance can be appraised.

Recent statements made by important citizens of Germany, Belgium and France, respectively, indicate that the peoples of all these countries generally would like to see an early and satisfactory disposition of all their international differences. What action could be taken, or when, or in what manner, or by whom, is a problem not easy of solution. However, if each of the nations should in due form submit every question involved to a

disinterested and impartial foreign nation to be mutually selected, agreeing to abide by the decision, the whole matter could be disposed of with justice to all and injustice to none; or if, for instance, the submission should be made to such a man as Secretary of State, ex-Justice Hughes, and all the pertinent facts furnished, there would be a prompt and early decision, fair, intelligent and just; and it would surely command the respect of all nations, including France, Germany and Belgium. If urged he ought to be willing to serve, notwithstanding the heavy burdens he is carrying.

The desire and thought of every one in the whole universe should be, not how to avoid or postpone a settlement, but rather how to find some way for promptly bringing it about.

BUSINESS CONDITIONS

It is not difficult to ascertain and accurately state what has happened or is occurring in the iron and steel business of this country, or to guess what may hereafter occur; but to state with certainty what will happen in the future, even for a period of six months, is impossible, though many of us in practice, from conditions as they exist, reason to a conclusion as to what is likely to happen in the near future and act accordingly.

At present the furnaces and mills of iron and steel manufacturers are operating nearly to full capacity, limited and modified only by a lack of sufficient working forces. The producers find it difficult to satisfy the peremptory demands of consumers; this has been the situation for some months past. Stocks of finished materials in our warehouses and at the mills are very low. The unfilled orders on the books of steel manufacturers are not less than fifteen or sixteen million tons, and the new bookings

and shipments of finished materials per day for the whole industry are eighty or ninety thousand tons. In short, there is nothing in sight to indicate that there will be a substantial diminution of the demand for finished steel in this country during the next six months, to say the least.

Of course, as always, conditions may change materially and suddenly, depending upon circumstances, but the necessities of consumers in the United States and of those in foreign countries who are our customers are so great, the population is increasing so rapidly, and the ability to buy and pay for steel, as shown by financial statements, so large, there is within view no reason to suppose there will be, certainly not in the near future, a material slackening in demand and use. The bank deposits in twenty-five banks only are said to be about eight billion dollars. Much depends upon the attitude of the business men. This includes both sellers and buyers; and it is to be remembered most of the buyers of our products are also sellers, in some form or another, of the materials which they buy.

There has of late apparently been a deliberate and persistent attempt to create an impression that there will be, in the near future, a substantial recession in business activities. Business men generally understand this. The propaganda is inspired by a few short-sighted persons who do not seem to understand that if they could succeed in wrecking the business structure they would themselves be buried in the ruins.

However, the postponements in some lines of business operations have not wholly resulted from deliberate and unworthy propaganda. In the building lines particularly, where work has not already been commenced,

projected operations more or less have been postponed by reason of the extraordinary and inordinate prices charged by certain trades for wage rates, and also by the numerous strikes or threatened strikes for still higher wage rates. One need only read the reports published in the daily press to be convinced of these facts.

As often stated publicly, eighty-five percent or more of the cost of producing steel, from the raw products to the finished material, is paid to the workmen. When, in order to secure sufficient workmen on buildings, contractors are compelled to pay the carpenters, painters, bricklayers, plasterers, plumbers and others in kindred lines, \$10.00 and upwards per day of eight hours, and this to workmen who are demanding a five-day week, with arbitrary limits of the work done, it is not surprising if the building of costly structures is being postponed until more favorable conditions shall obtain. The wonder is that there has been so much building during the last eighteen months. If one will take the pains to go through the cities and outlying territory one will at present see thousands of buildings in process of construction.

As a matter of course, the public will soon discover, if it is not already generally understood, that extortionate prices for materials or labor must eventually be paid by the consumer. Every unreasonable or unfair burden in business operations must eventually fall upon the user; and the law of supply and demand will sooner or later bring about exposure and remedial action which will secure fair and proper adjustments. In this connection, it is proper, though not necessary, to suggest that the steel manufacturers, in their own interest, must not permit prices for their commodities to go above a point which is fair and reasonable. We were for months sell-

ing our products at prices that were too low for a fair return on our investments; but at present it would seem that selling prices are about right. To the extent we believe this statement is justified we should, if possible, prevent them from going higher, notwithstanding the demand is large and urgent.

Building operations, though important, are a small percentage of our business. Even though there should be no more new contracts for structural steel during the next six months, apparently the steel business taken as a whole would be satisfactory.

When one considers the wealth, resources, increasing production and purchasing necessities of this country, the present business outlook is good. And this is said in the face of very heavy burdens of taxation, unnecessary and unreasonable political and social agitations precipitated by those who have nothing financial at stake, the unfortunate troubles pending in foreign countries, and the bugbear of politics.

It must be admitted that if one reads the Congressional Record when Congress is in session and visits the rooms of the Congressional Committees, where may be found organized minority groups urging propositions that have no merit, many of them with destructive tendencies, there is some ground for discouragement; but if one will turn about face and leave these circles of despondency and go out upon the farms, and in the manufactories, and along the transportation arteries, and into the active mines, one is compelled to conclude that the constructive forces of the United States are so great by comparison that the small standing army of pessimists cannot for long or to any great extent interrupt the onward march of business activity.

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